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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 17, 2007

***STATEMENT FROM GOVERNOR NAPOLITANO REGARDING  
IMMIGRATION COMPROMISE***

PHOENIX – *Governor Janet Napolitano issued the following statement in response to the U.S. Senate negotiator's agreement on immigration reform:*

“The proposed Senate compromise is a start, but as with all things related to immigration, the devil is in the details. Clearly there is much to be fixed as the debate moves forward. For example, one trigger in this proposal involves waiting for enforcement measures to be in place – which could take 18 months or more – before activating a temporary worker program.

As Governor of a border state who deals with this on a daily basis, I can assure you that we cannot and should not wait that long.

I am also concerned that, at a time when the U.S. Border Patrol needs to be at its strongest, there is news the Federal government has signed a contract with DynCorp, allowing that company to skim off critical Border Patrol agents from Arizona to work overseas, training Iraqis to secure the borders of that country. We need to retain our focus here.

It has taken a lot of hard work by the negotiators to come this far. I urge them to keep working with that same intensity to come up with a comprehensive final measure that addresses our needs for today and the years to come.”

*Attached: article from the Arizona Daily Star regarding the recruiting of Border Patrol agents; and a letter from Governors Napolitano and Richardson to President Bush.*